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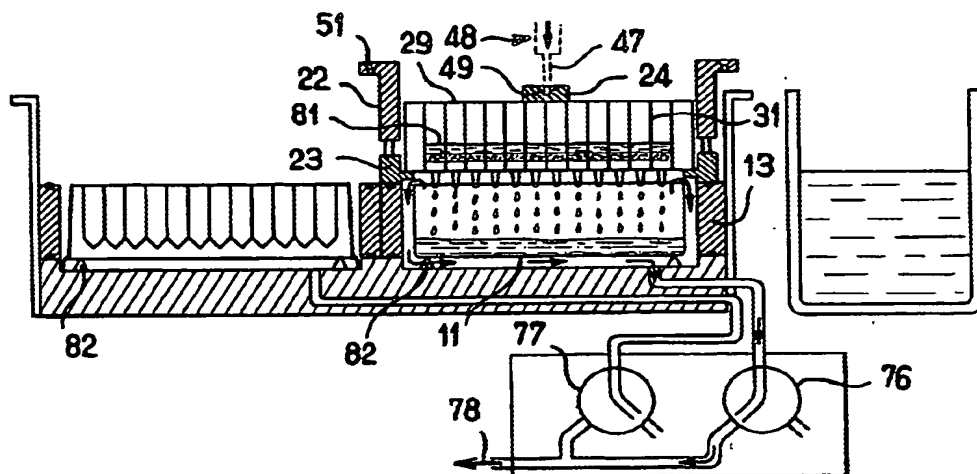
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(54) Title: METHODS, RACK AND DEVICE FOR PREPARING SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS



(57) Abstract: In a solid phase extraction (SPE) device, once all the columns 31 of the SPE plate 29 are filled with liquid (81), the needles (47) cooperate with engagement formations (49) on a pusher element (24) for pushing down the plate (29) together with an upwardly biased shoe (23) into sealing engagement with a peripheral spacer (13) surrounding a container (11). Simultaneously, vacuum (78) is applied by appropriate control of a valve (76) and all the columns simultaneously transfer liquid into the drain container. Then, vacuum is released, needles (47) engage recesses (51) to move a carriage (20) above a collect container (12) and a similar prosecution is resumed.

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